

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Amend the paragraph that begins in line 24 on page 3 as follows:

Light entered into the Y-branching optical waveguide 15 is branched into two light waves, namely, a first light wave and a second light wave, and the first light wave propagates and is incident on an fiber optic coil 20 through a third optical fiber 18 to propagate through the fiber optic coil 20 in the clockwise direction (hereinafter, referred to as CW direction). The second branched light wave propagates and is incident on the fiber optic coil 20 through a fourth optical fiber 21 to propagate through the fiber optic coil 20 in the counterclockwise direction (hereinafter, referred to as CCW direction). In this example, the third and fourth optical fibers 18 and 21 are formed by polarization maintaining optical fibers, respectively. The inherent axes of these polarization maintaining optical fibers 18 and 21 are spliced to the output ends of the Y-branching optical waveguide 15 in the axis rotation method ~~at their predetermined points 23 and 24, respectively,~~ with each polarization maintaining optical fiber having its inherent axes placed at an angle of 45 degrees ~~at the corresponding predetermined point.~~ As a result, both of the polarization maintaining optical fibers 18 and 21 function as depolarizers, respectively. The fiber optic coil 20 is formed by a single mode optical fiber.

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Replace original Fig. 1 as filed with the enclosed figure. The enclosed figure amends original Fig. 1 by removing reference numerals 23 and 24 because the amended specification no longer refers to these features.